

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-01

SIL-01 AGR-05 L-01 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

PM-03 OES-02 INT-05 COA-01 /094 W

----- 099953

R 040530Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 2280

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YS, UK, GW

SUBJECT: BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN COMMENTS ON PDRY

1. ALTHOUGH REPORTING FROM BRITISH EMBASSY ADEN HAS BEEN AVAILABLE THROUGH LONDON, I HAD OPPORTUNITY RECENTLY FOR USEFUL TALK WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR RAMAGE WHO WAS VISITING HERE FROM ADEN. IN ADDITION TO HIS OBSERVATIONS AND AS COMMENT ON RELATIVE CONDITIONS IN TWO YEMENI CAPITALS, I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT HE RETURNED FROM SANAA WITH LAND ROVER FULL OF FOOD BECUASE OF CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF ALL KINDS OF FOODSTUFFS IN ADEN TO INCLUDE SALT. I HAVE ALSO TALKED TO WEST GERMAN CHARGE HERE WHO RETURNED FROM ADEN LAST WEEK WHERE HE WAS DISCUSSING ESTABLISHMENT NEW FRG EMBASSY.

2. AMBASSADOR RAMAGE OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF CHANGE IN PDRY POLICIES, ONLY FIRST VERY FAINT SIGNS THAT PDRY

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MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE. HE NOTED AS EXAMPLE THAT RECENT VISIT OF

PFLP CHIEF GEORGE HABASH HAD BEEN GIVEN NO PUBLICITY, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS VISITS, AND THAT HABASH HAD BEEN APPARENTLY ASTONISHED TO HEAR NF SECRETARY GENERAL ISMAIL, IN PUBLIC SPEECH, EFFUSIVELY PRAISE EGYPTIANS FOR THEIR ROLE IN DEFENDING YAR FROM 1962 TO 1967. RAMAGE FELT THAT ISMAIL WAS STILL STRONGEST PERSONALITY IN PDRY AND THAT NO REAL CHANGE IN POLICY WAS POSSIBLE UNLESS HE WAS REMOVED.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO OBSERVED THAT WHILE CHINESE WERE GENUINELY POPULAR, RUSSIANS WERE UNIVERSALLY DISLIKED BY EVERYONE BUT POLITBUREAU AND MADE NO REAL ATTEMPT TO HIDE THEIR CONTEMPT FOR SOUTHERN YEMENIS AND HALF-BAKED MARXISM WHICH KEPT DISRUPTING ECONOMY. RAMAGE WAS VERY MUCH OF OPINION (WHICH I SHARE) THAT OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL AND RESULTING ECONOMIC BOOST TO ADEN WOULD ONLY ENABLE GOVT. TO DO MORE DISAGREEABLE THINGS IN SHORT RUN AND WOULD NOT IN ITSELF STRENGTHEN FORCES OF MODERATION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, RAMAGE SAID HE FELT SURE NEITHER SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS NOR CUBAN MILITIA ADVISERS WERE ENCOURAGING PDRY TO ATTACK YAR. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT MIND ILL-ADVISED YAR ATTACK WHICH WOULD GIVE PDRY OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE BACK.

5. FRG CHARGE MUHLEN, WHO WENT TO ADEN FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR RESIDENT MISSION, TOLD ME PDRY OFFICIALS WERE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT FRG WOULD BE REPRESENTED IN ADEN BY SINGLE DIPLOMAT WITH NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED FROM SANAA (PARTICULARLY AUSTERE SINCE) GERMANS HERE RECEIVE FOUR MONTHS HOME LEAVE YEARLY). PDRY HAD IN FACT BEEN SAVING POTENTIAL CHANCERY AND SEVERAL APARTMENTS IN DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE DESPITE OTHER PRESSING REQUEST. PDRY OFFICIALS TOLD MUHLEN THEY ANXIOUSLY AWAITING ARRIVAL FRG TECHNICAL AID STUDY MISSION. MUHLEN WAS TREATED VERY HOSPITABLY AND GIVEN FULL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (RESIDENT DIPLOMATS MOVEMENTS ARE CONTROLLED).

6. BOTH RAMAGE AND MUHLEN NOTED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC GRUMBLING AMONG ADENIS. HOWEVER, RAMAGE POINTED OUT THAT PERHAPS THIRD OF PRESENT POPULATION OF CITY CONSISTS OF UPCOUNTRY
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NF PARTISANS WHO ARE LIVING BETTER THAN BEFORE IN FREE IF DECAYING QUARTERS SUCH AS FORMER BRITISH APARTMENTS IN MA'ALLA DISTRICT. FOOD IS CONSTANT PROBLEM SINCE PDRY STOPPED HARD CURRENCY PAYMENT FOR FOOD IMPORTS, WITH LONG QUEUES COMMON. CLUMSY DOCTRINAIRE ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL PRICES WHILE GUARANTEEING PAYMENTS TO FARMERS AND FISHERMAN HAVE ONLY COMPOUNDED PROBLEMS, WHICH HAVE LED IN TURN TO INCREASE IN REPRESSIVE MEASURES.

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